allocating funds for research and development to Universities, Colleges and Non-Governmental Organisations in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds and projects sanctioned by the Department for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has been allocating funds for research and development to Universities, Colleges and Non-Governmental Organisations in Orissa.

(b) DBT has allocated funds for carrying out research and development in Universities/Colleges/R&D Institutes. These are V.S.S. Medical College, Burla; National Research Centre for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar; Regional Plant Resource Centre, (RPRC) Bhubaneshwar; Utkal University, Bhubaneswar; Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhubaneswar. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) supported are: Action Research on Health and Socio Economic Development, Patnagarh, Dist- Balangir, SANCKET, Bhubaneshwar. In addition department has an autonomous institute — Institute of Life Sciences at Bhubaneswar.

(c) The funds allocated to Universities/Colleges/R&D Institutes and NGOs in the last three years are Rs. 1687.55 Lakhs and Rs. 22.01 Lakhs respectively. These funds were provided for carrying out research and development in the areas of Bioresources Conservation, Plant Molecular Biology, Bioprospecting, Environmental Biotechnology, Genetic Disorders and Industrial Biotechnology. DBT also provided funds for Biotechnology-based programmes for women.

Regional Science Centre at Dharwad

3821. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance for setting up a Regional Science Centre at Dharwad; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, a draft proposal was received from the State Government of Karnataka seeking financial

assistance from the Government of India for setting up of a Regional Science Centre at Dharwad. As the details in the proposal were inadequate, it could not be evaluated.

Earthquake Resistant Techniques in Delhi

†3822. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Delhi is safe so far as the earthquake is concerned;

(b) whether Government would provide low cost earthquake resistant technique for the buildings to be constructed in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) As per the seismic zoning map of India published by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the country has been divided into four seismic zones, namely Zone II, III, IV and V. While Zone V is considered to be most seismically active, Zone II is the least. As per this map Delhi falls in Zone IV.

(b) and (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published various guidelines and codes for design and construction of earthquake resistant structures, as well as retrofitting of buildings etc. Losses due to earthquakes can considerably be reduced if these guidelines/codes are followed during new constructions/strengthening of existing structures etc.

Funds for Scientific Institutions

3823. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a nodal Government agency in place which determines and disburses funds to different institutes, including Universities for scientific and basic research;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its composition and functions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would consider the question of setting up such an agency which would oversee the funding of all projects of research of national importance?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.